

**REMARKS**

Entry of the foregoing, reexamination and reconsideration of the above-identified application are respectfully requested.

By this Amendment the claims have been revised only to better conform to domestic practice.

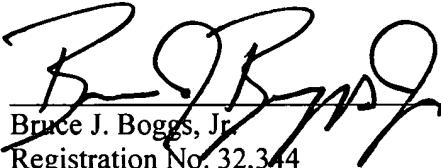
In the event that there are any questions relating to this Preliminary Amendment or to the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would contact the undersigned attorney by telephone at (202) 373-6000 so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2518.

Respectfully submitted,  
BINGHAM McCUTCHEON, LLP

Date: June 29, 2006

By:

  
Bruce J. Boggs, Jr.  
Registration No. 32,344

Bingham McCutchen LLP  
Three Embarcadero Center  
San Francisco, California 94111-4067  
Local Telephone: (202) 778-6150  
Local Facsimile: (202) 778-6155